



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3761

In re

Patent Application of

Sven Hollenbeck et al.

Application No. 10/620,171

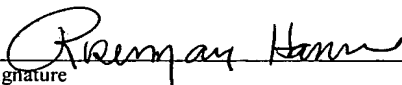
Confirmation No.: 9480

Filed: July 15, 2003

Examiner: Not yet assigned.

"FOLDABLE CONVERTIBLE VEHICLE TOPS"

I, Rosemary Hann, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.


Signature

3/16/2004
Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A, copies of which are attached. Citation of these references is respectfully requested.

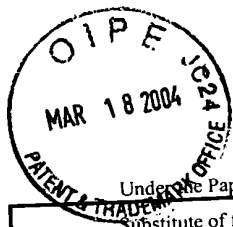
A concise statement of the relevance of German Utility Model Publication No. 297 13 522 is enclosed. U.S. Patent No. 5,251,952 is the counterpart of German Patent No. 41 21 226 C1 and therefore discloses the relevance of this cited reference. Please note that European Patent No. 1 024 042 B1, submitted herein, claims priority to cited German Utility Model No. 299 01 589. As such, the enclosed English translation of European Patent No. 1 024 042 B1 provides an explanation of the relevance of both this European patent and German Utility Model No. 299 01 589. Further, the enclosed English Abstracts (from the esp@cenet database) of German Patent Publication No. 198 20 711 and German Patent No. 41 02 provide concise statements of the relevance of each of these references, as submitted herein.

No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicant expressly reserves the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark A. Ussai
Reg. No. 42,195

File No. 016382-9001
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
3773 Corporate Parkway Suite 360
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610-798-2170



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Substitute of form 1449/PTO

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/620,171
Filing Date	July 15, 2003
First Name Inventor	Sven Hollenbeck
Group Art Unit	9480
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned.
Attorney Docket Number	016382-9001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	5,251,952	Mercedes-Benz AG	10/12/1993

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Country Code	Foreign Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Translation	English Abstract
	DE ✓	198 20 711 A1	Daimler Chrysler AG (DE)	11/18/1999		X
	DE ✓	297 13 522 U1	Ed. Scharwachter GmbH & Co.	12/11/1997		X
	DE ✓	41 02 119 C1	Mercedes-Benz Aktiengesellschaft	7/2/1992		X
	DE ✓	41 21 226 C1	Mercedes-Benz Aktiengesellschaft	5/27/1992		
	DE ✓	299 01 589 U1	Wilhelm Karmann GmbH	6/29/2000		
	EP ✓	1 024 042 B1	Wilhelm Karmann GmbH	5/7/2003		X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 0231.
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